

Guidance Notes for Solar Photovoltaic System Installation launched today

To combat climate change, the Government is actively promoting the development of renewable energy (RE). It has also introduced the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) to provide incentives for individuals and non-Government bodies to encourage them to invest in RE. To assist the public in understanding issues related to solar photovoltaic (PV) system installations and the FiT application procedures, the Government launched the Guidance Notes for Solar Photovoltaic System Installation today (October 15). The Guidance Notes cover the detailed requirements for the installation of solar PV systems on the rooftops of New Territories Exempted Houses (also known as village houses).

A Government spokesman said the Chief Executive had announced in the 2018 Policy Address and Policy Agenda that further support and facilitation would be provided for individuals and organisations participating in RE development, including suitably relaxing the restrictions on installation of solar PV systems on the rooftops of village houses. Subject to the fulfilment of specified conditions, PV systems including the supporting structure not greater than 2.5 metres in height may be installed on the rooftops of village houses such that residents may continue to use their roofs for legal purposes while combating climate change. The Government will also consider making appropriate relaxations for rooftops of other private buildings, in particular low-rise ones.

The spokesman said, "The two power companies have introduced/will introduce their respective FiT Schemes in October this year and January next year and have been receiving applications for the schemes. The initial response from the community has been positive, with around 500 applications received by the two power companies by the end of September. We believe that the Guidance Notes will provide members of the public who are interested in installing solar PV panels at their premises and the trade with handy guidelines. The Government will also lead by example by developing RE at suitable premises and buildings, and will continue to launch various facilitation measures to encourage the community to join hands in fostering RE development."

The Guidance Notes have been uploaded to the website of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) (re.emsd.gov.hk/english/fit/useful_links/files/PVGuidanceNotes.pdf) for reference by the public. For more information on the installation of solar PV panels, please visit the Hong Kong Renewable Energy Net (HK RE Net) (re.emsd.gov.hk) or call the EMSD's hotline (6395 2930) during office hours.

Missing woman in Kwai Chung located

A woman who went missing in Kwai Chung was located.

Wong Wing-chi, aged 28, went missing after she left her residence in Kwai Chung Estate on October 12 morning. Her family made a report to Police on the same day.

The woman turned up to Police to cancel the missing person report yesterday (October 14) evening.

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (October 15) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, and that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From October 7 to 13, four community-acquired LD cases were reported. They are:

1. A male patient, aged 80 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 1, Locwood Court, Kingswood Villas, Tin Shui Wai;
2. A female patient, aged 61 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Apollo Building, 164-170 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po;
3. A female patient, aged 62 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Tower 3, The Visionary, 1 Ying Hong Street, Tung Chung; and
4. A male patient, aged 81 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Kam Kei House, Kam Tai Court, Ma On Shan.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of October 13, 85 LD cases had been reported in 2018. In 2017 and 2016, there were 72 and 75 cases respectively.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunity are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection, including poor maintenance of water systems leading to stagnant water; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or

fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus which support breathing. People may get infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

1. Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
2. Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
3. If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not water directly from the tap. Also, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres (μm) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute the infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow doctors' professional advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile (not distilled or tap water) to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2 μm filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:

1. Wear gloves and a face mask;
2. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
3. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
4. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
5. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's [LD page](#), the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.

October 2018 issue of “Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics” now available

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (October 15) the October 2018 issue of the "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" (HKMDS).

Apart from providing up-to-date statistics, this issue also contains two feature articles entitled "Hong Kong's Imports Measured on Free-on-board Basis for 2017" and "Statistics on Sectoral Concentration".

"Hong Kong's Imports Measured on Free-on-board Basis for 2017"

In accordance with international statistical standards, the import statistics of Hong Kong are valued on cost, insurance and freight (c.i.f.) basis. Yet, import statistics valued on free on board (f.o.b.) basis are also useful for certain analytical purposes.

Since 1996, the C&SD has been compiling an additional set of import statistics measured on f.o.b. basis to facilitate analysis on merchandise trade balance and comparison of trade statistics with other economies.

This feature article introduces the concept and application of imports statistics measured on f.o.b. basis, and analyses the related statistics for 2017.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Trade Surveys Section, C&SD (Tel: 2582 5255; email: ims@censtatd.gov.hk).

"Statistics on Sectoral Concentration"

A wide range of statistical indicators can be compiled from the results of the Annual Survey of Economic Activities conducted by the C&SD for analysing the business situation and performance of various economic sectors in Hong Kong. Among others, statistics on sectoral concentration can throw light on the extent of business concentration within individual sectors.

This feature article analyses the extent of business concentration in selected economic sectors of Hong Kong by making reference to the Concentration Ratios and Herfindahl-Hirschman Indices compiled in terms of business receipts in 2015 and 2016.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Distribution Services Statistics Section, C&SD (Tel: 3903 7398; email: asw@censtatd.gov.hk).

Published in bilingual form, the HKMDS is a compact volume of official statistics containing about 140 tables. It collects up-to-date statistical series on various aspects of the social and economic situation of Hong Kong. Topics include population; labour; external trade; National Income and Balance of Payments; prices; business performance; energy; housing and property; government accounts, finance and insurance; and transport, communications and tourism. For selected key statistical items, over 20 charts depicting the annual trend in the past decade and quarterly or monthly trend in the recent two years are also available. Users can download the Digest free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp460.jsp?productCode=B1010002).

Enquiries about the contents of the Digest can be directed to the Statistical Information Services Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4738; email: gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk).

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, October 15, 2018 is 105.3 (down 0.1 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, October 13, 2018 was 105.4 (up 0.2 against last Friday's index).